

03



# News and Current Affairs

## JULY 2005

- ⊕ On location coverage of the London bombings
- ⊕ New studio 'virtual set' and graphics for World News Australia
- ⊕ On location coverage of Prime Minister's visit to Washington and London

## AUGUST

- ⊕ On location reports from Gaza of Israeli withdrawal
- ⊕ Quicklink technology via Internet or phone used in Gaza reports

## SEPTEMBER

- ⊕ On location coverage of the New Zealand elections
- ⊕ On location coverage of Prime Minister's visit to UN General Assembly

## OCTOBER

- ⊕ On location coverage of Bali bomb attacks
- ⊕ On location coverage from Port Moresby on Pacific Islands' forum

## NOVEMBER

- ⊕ On location coverage of the CHOGM meeting in Malta
- ⊕ On location coverage of APEC meeting in South Korea

## DECEMBER

- ⊕ SBS News forum with community leaders on Cronulla riots
- ⊕ News special on first anniversary of Asian Tsunami
- ⊕ On location coverage of ASEAN meeting in Malaysia

## FEBRUARY 2006

- ⊕ Second daily news bulletin added to World News Australia website
- ⊕ Launch of revamped Dateline website

## MARCH

- ⊕ On location coverage of Prime Minister's trip to India
- ⊕ Launch of new Insight and Living Black websites

## APRIL

- ⊕ On location reports of Solomon Islands rioting

## MAY

- ⊕ On location reports of Beaconsfield mine collapse
- ⊕ On location reports of Wadeye community unrest in Northern Territory
- ⊕ On location coverage of Prime Minister's visits to USA, Canada and Ireland

## JUNE

- ⊕ On location coverage of East Timor civil unrest
- ⊕ On location World Cup reports from Germany
- ⊕ On location coverage of Prime Minister's visits to Indonesia and China

# NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

The News and Current Affairs operations of SBS were consolidated and expanded during the year following a restructure of the SBS Executive.

News and Current Affairs (NACA) is now a division incorporating the NACA operations of Television and Radio and the World News Australia website. The merger has brought greater news gathering efficiencies between Television and Radio and enhanced audio, video and print content on [www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au](http://www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au)

## NEWS

### World News Australia

The year saw impressive growth in the quantity and quality of SBS Television's coverage of national and international events. This followed a major re-branding of SBS Television news, as *World News Australia* and the introduction of a new set, new opening and closing titles, a revamp of the theme music, and a complete overhaul of our on-air "look". Reporters now sign off their reports with their names, and if overseas, their locations, and regularly provide reports-to-camera and live shots. The process of expansion and rejuvenation of the news will continue in the new year, with plans to expand the half-hour 6.30 edition of *World News Australia* to one hour from late January 2007.

SBS correspondents provided on-the-spot coverage of the following international and national stories:

Britain:	London bomb attacks on July 7
Indonesia:	Schapelle Corby drug trial in Bali
Middle East:	Withdrawal of Israeli settlers from Gaza
Indonesia:	Bali bomb attacks in October Anniversary of the tsunami, reporting from Aceh
Israel:	National elections
Italy:	National elections
New Zealand:	National elections
Solomon Islands:	Anti-Chinese rioting and deployment of Australian troops
Tasmania:	Rescue of trapped miners in Beaconsfield
Northern Territory:	Civil unrest in Aboriginal community of Wadeye
East Timor:	Rioting and deployment of Australian troops
Germany:	Football World Cup

SBS covered elections in Tasmania and South Australia and accompanied the Prime Minister on the following overseas trips:

July:	Washington DC and London
September:	United Nations General Assembly in New York
November:	Pacific Island Forum in Papua New Guinea Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta APEC conference in Korea Afghanistan and Pakistan
December:	ASEAN meeting in Malaysia
March:	India
May:	United States, Canada and Ireland
June:	Indonesia and China

Extended news bulletins were provided for the following events: the London bombings; the return to Earth of the space shuttle; a forum on the Cronulla riots; the illness of the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon; and the killing of the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

## WorldWatch

During the year, WorldWatch continued to supply news bulletins in 18 languages from 22 broadcasters in 19 countries. The presentation of the weather segments vastly improved during the year, and the delivery paths of several programs changed, providing a more reliable service and cost reductions.

On 15 December 2005, SBS introduced the weather service of 'earthTV', a Munich-based company supplying international broadcasters with a world weather information service that employs remote control cameras at various locations around the world. While the old weather service was solely based on a map of Australia, the new presentation is much more in tune with the international character of the WorldWatch and World News Channel services. The weather information is used between news bulletins in the WorldWatch and World News Channel schedules.

Five major daily satellite feeds, previously supplied to Sydney by satellite, were moved to the SBS optical fibre from London, considerably reducing transmission costs to SBS. A planned expansion of the Filipino news from a Sunday-only service to a daily service had to be postponed as the new Philippines partner station was unable to provide the news in time for the intended early morning replay on SBS. A replacement service is expected to be ready in August/September 2006.

## World News Channel

The digital World News Channel broadly mirrors the WorldWatch schedule (5.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Saturday and 6.30am to 10.30am on Sundays). In 2005-06, the schedule included news services in 17 languages from 18 broadcasters in 18 countries.

The World News Channel provided almost 6,500 program hours in 2005-06, with an average of 13 hours of original news material per day. Of a total of 29 daily (Monday to Saturday) bulletins, 24 were first run, reducing the repeats to only five bulletins a day.

### WorldWatch and World News Channel suppliers:

In 2005-06, news feeds (Monday to Saturday) were received from the following suppliers:

China	China Central Television (CCTV), Beijing
France	France Télévisions (FT), Paris
Germany	Deutsche Welle (DW), Berlin
Greece	Elliniki Radiophonia Tileorassi (ERT), Athens
Hong Kong	Asia Television Limited (ATV), Hong Kong
Indonesia	Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI), Jakarta
Italy	Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI), Rome
Japan	Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK), Tokyo
Philippines	National Broadcasting Network (NBN), Manila
Russia	NTV Telekompania (NTV), Moscow
Spain	Radio Televisión Española (RTVE), Madrid
United Arab Emirates	Dubai Media Incorporated (DTV), Dubai
USA	Public Broadcasting System (PBS), Virginia (WorldWatch)
	Public Broadcasting System (PBS), New York & Florida (WorldWatch)

In addition, five news review programs were received each week by air freight delivery for Sunday replay:

Chile	Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN), Santiago
Malta	Public broadcasting Services Limited (PBS), G'mangia
Poland	Telewizja Polska SA (TVP), Warsaw
Poland	Telewizja Polsat SA, Warsaw
Ukraine	MIST Telekompania (MIST), Lviv

Three other news programs, also broadcast on Sunday, were received by satellite:

Hungary	Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN), Santiago
Italy	Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI), Rome
Korea	YTN Television (YTN), Seoul

## SBS Radio News

The amalgamation of SBS Radio News under the News and Current Affairs Division has brought greater interaction between news rooms, and following the alignment of technology, there has been faster and easier transfer of audio and scripts.

During 2005-06, SBS Radio News produced for the network's 68 language programs 25,000 breaking news and major Australian and international stories as well as 1,200 features.

Some of the significant stories covered during the year by Radio News included:

- ④ Cronulla Riots: The coverage of the riots within news bulletins, which included the perspectives of Sydney's Muslim communities and the residents of Cronulla, was supplemented by features about whether 'talkback' radio helped incite the riots and their long-term impact on Australian multiculturalism.
- ④ Indonesian Tsunami: One month after the disaster, SBS Radio News compiled a special report about the progress of relief operations in the devastated areas.
- ④ Schapelle Corby: Comprehensive coverage of the jailed Australian's trial included the reaction within Australia, an explanation of the Indonesian legal system, and the consequences on Indonesia-Australian relations.

- ④ Crime in Indigenous communities: A series of stories examined the Federal government's proposals, the reaction of affected communities, and past and present approaches to combating Indigenous crime.
- ④ Refugee issues: The latest Government policies on refugee asylum seekers were examined by the South Australian correspondent who reviewed the cases of those refugees who had been released into the community.
- ④ World Cup: The SBS Radio News team produced 87 World Cup features and summaries and processed and distributed 355 audio reports from correspondents at the games.

## SBS Online

The World News Australia website

[www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au](http://www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au) remains one of the largest and most comprehensive properties on the SBS website. It features:

- ④ Continuously updated lead stories from Australia and around the world
- ④ Detailed news reports published under six geographic regions – Europe, The Middle East, The Americas, Asia-Pacific, Africa and National
- ④ Two five-minute video news bulletins recorded each day exclusively for the Web
- ④ Subscription-based email delivery of the day's top headlines
- ④ World weather service
- ④ Transcripts of the 6.30pm World News Australia bulletin
- ④ A news archive
- ④ A link to the SBS World Guide with information about every country in the world
- ④ Audio features compiled by SBS Radio's multicultural affairs program World View including: news and current affairs; arts and culture; entertainment; lifestyle; homeland; sport and recreation; community and youth; science and environment; and business and finance.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Insight

Now in its 11th year, **Insight**, hosted by Jenny Brockie, remains a unique Australian television program – a discussion forum focusing on a single issue with the participation of a studio audience.

Twenty-seven editions of the program were broadcast in 2005-06 (Tuesdays at 7.30pm) and year-end ratings improved 30% over the previous year. Among the diverse topics covered were the nuclear power debate, child care, gay marriage, and the government's refugee policy. The two most popular programs were 'Aussie Rules' which examined Australian core values and beliefs, and 'Happiness' a lively philosophical discussion about what makes us happy.

### INSIGHT topics 2005-06

Extreme Measures	Radical and moderate Muslims debate extremism
bully.com	School bullying takes a new form on the Internet
Reel Drama	What's wrong with the Australian film industry?
When I Get Older	How well are we looking after our older generation?
Neighbours	Indonesians discuss relations with Australia
The New Asylums	Why are jails now asylums for the mentally ill?
Pandemic	How ready is Australia for an outbreak of bird flu?
Proving Rape	Does the law favour those accused of rape?
Running Dry	What's the solution for our water crisis?
Protected by Law	The new workplace laws are debated
Family Ties	Planned changes to the Family Law Act
Sex, Power, and Politics	"Are Men Necessary?" asks author Maureen Dowd
Culture Clash	Are Muslims antagonistic to "Australian values"?
Condition Critical	What's the future for Iraq?
Diagnosis: Cancer	It's not always a death sentence
Babies without Borders	The problems of overseas adoption
Minding the Kids	The crisis in Australian child care
Happiness	What makes us happy?
Thirteen	The hopes and concerns of young teenagers
Aussie Rules	What are Australians' core beliefs and values?
Labor Pains	How can the ALP win power in Canberra?
You're fired!	How the new IR laws are working
Gay Marriage	A new ACT law allows same-sex unions
Superbrats	Why some parents need 'Supernanny'
Making Babies	The rights of donor-conceived children
Border Security	Refugees create tensions with Indonesia

In October, a special edition of the program which was recorded in Jakarta in the studios of the commercial network, Metro TV, examined the attitudes of prominent Indonesians towards Australia. The program was timely, coinciding with the second terrorist attack in Bali, and a number of high profile drug trials. Another popular forum was 'Thirteen', which examined the views of thirteen-year-olds who produced their own video stories for the program.

Some participants in this year's forums included Attorney General, Phillip Ruddock; Health Minister Tony Abbott; columnist Maureen Dowd; playwright David Williamson; and sports stars Layne Beachley, John Bertrand, and Ron Barassi.

## DATELINE topics 2005-06

Malawi: An African Test Case	Debt wracked Malawi faces growing poverty
Darfur's Dirty War	The under-reported conflict in Western Sudan
Taksin's Thailand	Thailand's richest man confronts his critics
The Beeston Boys	The aftermath of the London bombings
Foot in Mouth	Meat imports from foot and mouth plagued Brazil
Iraq: Sea Change?	Australian and coalition forces in southern Iraq
Tolo TV	Afghan-Australians bring television to Afghanistan
Ethiopia: Africa's Great Hope?	Ethiopia's first multi-party ballot
Zimbabwe: Operation Tsunami	The Mugabe government's destruction of city slums and suburbs
Embassy Bombers on Trial	Indonesia's justice system examined
The Two Worlds of Sir Michael Somare	Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister returns to power
Cajun Chaos: The Trouble with Katrina	The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
Somalia: Warlords and Peace?	Somalia's post-war attempt to form a government
Pakistan's Dirty Linen	Pakistani gang rape victim, Mukhtar Mai, fights back
Inside Indonesia's War on Terror	Terrorist movements linked to intelligence and military services
Psych War in Afghanistan	Burning the bodies of Afghanistan's Taliban fighters
Jihad Junior High?	Are Islamic schools a breeding ground for terrorists?
The Plame Game	Top level involvement in the naming of CIA agent Valerie Plame
Lifting the Hood: The Prisoners of Abu Ghraib	The personal stories of Abu Ghraib's prisoners
Tsunami Special	A special three-country report on the tsunami aftermath
New Orleans: Black Rage	Allegations of racism and exploitation following Hurricane Katrina
Dr Mahmoud al Zahar	Interview with Hamas leader following Palestinian elections
A Grain of Truth	An American wheat farmer's view of the AWB scandal
Abu Ghraib: The Sequel	Dateline's exclusive photos and video from Abu Ghraib
Abu Ghraib: A Torturer's Tale	The views of Abu Ghraib's alleged torturers
Brazil's Sweet Revolution	The success of Brazil's ethanol car industry
Israel's Borderline Election	Israel's walls, fences and roads that keep Palestinians apart
West Papua: Long Boat to Freedom	The 43 asylum seekers from West Papua
Bob Geldof Interview	Bob Geldof's views on world poverty and celebrity activism
The Women of Hamas	The role of women in electing the Hamas Islamist government
Sri Lanka's Shadow War	Who controls Sri Lanka's shadowy Tamil paramilitaries?
Dancing with Evo Morales	A profile of Bolivia's peasant president
India's Mini Marathon Man	Budhia Singh, 4, was sold into slavery and coached to run a marathon
George Galloway: Wanted for Anti-War Crimes	Rebel British politician, George Galloway targeted for his anti-war stance
The Very Thin Blue Line	The training of young Iraqi police cadets
Cuba: A Clean Bill of Health	Cuba's successful health care system
Four Days in Dili	East Timor sinks into violence and political unrest
West Papua: Flight to Freedom	West Papuans flee persecution to Papua New Guinea
Afghanistan: Baptism of Fire	Afghanistan's Taliban makes a come back
Yushchenko vs Tymoshenko	Ukraine's 'Orange Revolution' turns sour
Germany's New Power	The remarkable success of Germany's alternate energy industry
Indonesia: Pornography and Politics	The rise of fundamentalist Islam in secular Indonesia



 Brian Thomson in Germany reported for World News Australia

## Dateline

SBS's flagship international current affairs program covered conflicts, issues and personalities across the globe and became the source of a number of major stories during the year.

In February, international media attention focused on **Dateline**'s broadcast of new, previously unseen, photographs and video which revealed widespread prisoner abuse by U.S. guards at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The material was leaked to **Dateline** video journalist Olivia Rousset during her three-story investigation into allegations of official misconduct at the prison. SBS made the images available to the world media. Soon after, the American military laid fresh charges against a senior member of the U.S. Defense Force.

Three months earlier, the U.S. military disciplined other American servicemen after **Dateline** showed exclusive pictures of U.S. soldiers burning the dead bodies of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. The graphic scenes were filmed during an attempt by the American soldiers to engage in psychological warfare with Taliban forces.

**Dateline** was also first to record the outbreak of civil unrest between troops in East Timor in May. Video journalist, David O'Shea, was caught in a battle on the outskirts of Dili when he went to interview a renegade commander. The next day full scale unrest broke out, forcing several nations, led by Australia, to send peace-keeping troops to East Timor.

Forty-two editions of **Dateline**, plus a Tsunami **Dateline** special were broadcast during the year. The program's audience ratings improved by 60% over the previous year and the presenter, George Negus, marked his first full year in the role.



 From the Berlin control room to millions of Australians

## Dateline Awards

### A Call to Arms: Arizona Vigilantes

New York Festivals Silver World Medal – Best News Documentary

### Code of the Camorra

New York Festivals Bronze World Medal – Best News Documentary

### Malawi: A Case Study in Poverty

New York Festivals Bronze World Medal – Television Documentary: Social Issues/Current Events

### Inside Indonesia's Sex Trade

Walkley Award for All Media: Coverage of the Asia Pacific Region

### The Extraordinary Rendition of Mamdouh Habib

George Munster Award for Independent Journalism

### Inside Indonesia's Child Sex Trade

UN Association Media Peace Awards

### Good Morning Vietnam

United Nations Association Media Peace Awards

## Living Black

Produced by SBS's Indigenous Media Unit in News and Current Affairs, **Living Black** covers national issues of concern to Indigenous Australians.

Twenty-eight episodes of the program plus a one-hour special, The 2005 Deadly Awards, were produced during the year.

Living Black's timeslot was moved from 5.30pm Monday to 6pm Wednesday, attracting more peak-time viewers to its video-journalism style of reporting. The stories covered by the program ranged wide: from the general, which included the impact on Indigenous people of the Government's new legislation covering industrial relations and terrorism, to the specific, which included changes to welfare and land rights.

In depth feature stories included: suicide; sexual abuse; petrol sniffing in the Northern Territory and Mornington Island; customary law; racism in Kalgoorlie; incarceration rates in Western Australia; education programs; exploitation of Aboriginal artists; problems in Alice Springs, Halls Creek, Wadeye and Dubbo's Gordon Estate; and the plight of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sea Rangers.

In addition, the program produced many stories on high-profile Indigenous leaders and personalities including ALP President Warren Mundine and National Indigenous Council Chair Sue Gordon, athletes such as hurdler Kyle Van der Kuyp, boxer

Bradley Hore, discus thrower Benn Harradine, rugby star Leroy Whelan and World Champion boxer Anthony Mundine. A series of studio interviews were also conducted with Indigenous leaders and politicians.

During the year, **Living Black** produced special half-hour programs on Indigenous involvement in the 2006 Commonwealth Games and Anzac Day; a two-part 'Year in Review' forum; and a special half-hour panel discussion on sexual abuse within Indigenous communities. Video journalist, Kris Flanders won the Henry Mayer Media Trust Award for his feature 'Baryulgil Community and the Asbestos Mine'.

## SBS Online

The **Dateline**, **Insight** and **Living Black** websites are an integral part of the News and Current Affairs presence on the SBS website. All three sites provide enhancements to their on air productions with comprehensive video and transcript archives, background information and guestbooks.

**Dateline** at [www.sbs.com.au/dateline](http://www.sbs.com.au/dateline) provides full video streaming and transcripts of every report. These can be accessed by date or by clicking on the appropriate geographic region – Europe, The Middle East, Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific and The Americas. Other site elements include: story updates, related links for background information, audience feedback, program information and subscription to the Dateline Newsletter.

**Insight** at [www.sbs.com.au/insight](http://www.sbs.com.au/insight) extends the studio discussion format by allowing viewers to give their views via 'live chat', suggest topics and seek to become a forum participant. A transcript of each week's debate is available as well as full video streaming of past programs. Other site features include related links, a guestbook, subscription to the Insight Newsletter and the Insight Poll.

**Living Black** at [www.sbs.com.au/livingblack](http://www.sbs.com.au/livingblack) features the latest Indigenous news headlines, streamed video of each program, access to archived programs, audience feedback forums, a community events notice board, cultural protocol guidelines and a 'story suggestion' link.